

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BERN 00305 191223Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-15 /084 W  
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R 190925Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5602  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS BERN 0305

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, SZ  
SUBJ: SWISS UN MEMBERSHIP DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT

REF: 77 BERN 5749 AND 5776

1. SWISS COUNCIL OF STATES (UPPER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT)  
JAN 17 APPROVED BY 20 VOTES IN FAVOR TO 15 VOTES AGAINST  
SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL REPORT RECOMMENDING EVENTUAL SWISS  
MEMBERSHIP IN UN. HOWEVER, COUNCIL OF STATES DID NOT RECOMMEND,  
AS DID NATIONAL COUNCIL, THAT SWISS SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN "SHORTEST  
POSSIBLE TIME." GOVERNMENT'S REPORT HAD RECOMMENDED APPLYING  
FOR MEMBERSHIP "IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE". HOWEVER, OFFICIALS  
SAID THEY SAW LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN PHRASING.

2. MOST PARLIAMENTARIANS ALLUDED TO CRITICISMS, IMPERFECTIONS  
AND FAILURES OF UN DURING DEBATE PRECEEDING VOTE. THOSE  
WHO BACKED UN MEMBERSHIP NOTED THAT MOST CRITICS OVER-EMPHASIZE  
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PAGE 02 BERN 00305 191223Z

NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF UN; STRESSED UN ROLE AS COMMON MEETING  
GROUND WHERE STATES TRY TO FORGE PEACE, INTERNATIONAL LAW AND  
SOCIAL JUSTICE. OPPONENTS RIDICULED OVER-EMPHASIS UN GIVES  
TO SMALL STATES. SUPPORTERS FELT OPPOSITION MADE TOO MUCH OF  
UN IDEALISM NOT REFLECTING REALITIES OF TODAY'S WORLD. MAJORITY  
STRESSED DISAPPEARANCE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TECHNICAL AND  
POLITICAL UN ACTIVITIES AND FACT NEUTRALITY IS NO LONGER ISSUE

BECAUSE SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA ARE MEMBERS, THOUGH THEY MAY ABSTAIN ON MANY VOTES.

3. CARLOS GROSJEAN (NEUCHATEL) MOVED THAT UN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE SWISS NEUTRALITY BEFORE SWISS JOIN. HOWEVER, FEDERAL COUNCILOR GRABER (FONMIN) SAID THAT WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE, COULD NOT ASK UN REVISE CHARTER ONLY FOR SWISS. SWISS APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP WOULD INCLUDE STATEMENT ON SWISS NEUTRALITY. GRABER SAID THAT UN ACCEPTANCE OF SWITZERLAND'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP WOULD IN ITSELF BE RECOGNITION OF SWISS NEUTRALITY. GRABER STRESSED THAT UN MEMBERS ARE NOT REQUIRED PARTICIPATE IN MILITARY SANCTIONS WHEREAS NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES CAN FIND THEMSELVES CONSTRAINED TO APPLY NON-MILITARY SANCTIONS. GROSJEAN MOTION WAS DEFEATED BY VOTE 20 - 9.

4. PRESS COMMENTED THAT DEEP DIVISION IN COUNCIL OF STATES ON SUBJECT OF UN MEMBERSHIP WAS DEMONSTRATED BY DEBATE AND CLOSENESS OF VOTE. SAID THIS DIVISION DEMONSTRATES THAT WHEN UN MEMBERSHIP ISSUE EVENTUALLY COMES FOR FINAL DECISION, IT WILL ENCOUNTER SERIOUS DIFFICULTY AT PARLIAMENT LEVEL AS WELL AS IN NATIONAL REFERENDUM.

WARNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEMBERSHIP, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 BERN 5749  
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**SAS ID:** 3750378  
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**Subject:** SWISS UN MEMBERSHIP DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PORG, SZ, UNGA  
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**Review Markings:**  
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